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## PART I - ADMINISTRATIVE

### Section 1. General administrative information

#### Title of project

Northeast Oregon Mitigation Trust Fund

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**BPA project number:** 20130

**Contract renewal date (mm/yyyy):** ☒ **Multiple actions?**

#### Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding

Nez Perce Tribe

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**Business acronym (if appropriate)** NPT

#### Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

**Name** Loren A. Kronemann

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#### NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses

P.L. 96-501 sections 4(h) and 10(e)

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#### FWS/NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses

N/A

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#### Other planning document references

N/A

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#### Short description

Provide long term funding for the O & M of the NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Project through the use of a Trust Fund. This would assure long term stability of funding in the future.

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#### Target species

Downy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Marsh Wren, Western Meadowlark, Mule Deer, Chukar, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, Mallard, Canada Goose, River Otter, and one for timber cover type - to be selected.

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## Section 2. Sorting and evaluation

Subbasin

Grande Ronde River

### ***Evaluation Process Sort***

CBFWA caucus	Special evaluation process	ISRP project type
Mark one or more caucus	If your project fits either of these processes, mark one or both	Mark one or more categories
<input type="checkbox"/> Anadromous fish <input type="checkbox"/> Resident fish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multi-year (milestone-based evaluation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed project evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed councils/model watersheds <input type="checkbox"/> Information dissemination <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operation & maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> New construction <input type="checkbox"/> Research & monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation & management <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat acquisitions

## Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

***Umbrella / sub-proposal relationships.*** List umbrella project first.

Project #	Project title/description

### ***Other dependent or critically-related projects***

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship

## Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

### ***Past accomplishments***

Year	Accomplishment	Met biological objectives?
1997	All new aerial photography of the project lands and surrounding area	Yes, This is the first aerial photography ever done in project area.

1997	Rebuilt access roads into the project area after major winter flooding	
1998	Initiated vegetation cover mapping project. Scanning area 7.5 minute orthophotoquads. Developing GIS Data Base.	
1998	Repaired and upgraded staff facilities in Tamarack Ck.: rebuilt electric generator power system, upgraded water system, major repairs on buildings, road maintenance.	
1998	Repaired 1 mile of existing fence in area of heavy trespass grazing. Basin Creek	
1998	Established fire protection subcontract with Oregon State Department of Forestry, initial attack.	
1998	Repaired staff facilities in Basin Creek.	
1998	Bought additional 158 acres adjacent to existing property.	Additional HU's available
1998	Manual control of weeds along 6 miles of access road.	
1998		

### ***Objectives and tasks***

<b>Obj 1,2,3</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Task a,b,c</b>	<b>Task</b>
1	Develop and maintain resource data base for project lands acquired by the NPT under BPA contract# 96B197175. Common objective to all out years covered by a TRUST FUND	a	Maintain current mapping and aerial photography data
		b	Develop new and maintain current GIS data bases
		c	Acquire new mapping data to fill data gaps
		d	Complete development and varification of vegetation cover map, digitizing 7.5 min. orthophotoquads into GIS Data layer.
2	Noxious weed monitoring and control. Common objective to all out years covered by a TRUST FUND	a	Monitor noxious weed presents and map distribution.

		b	Coordinate with local agency weed supervisors
		c	Control existing noxious weeds on up to 500 acres using excepted methods of control.
3	Maintain the integrity of the property boundary against trespass grazing. Common objective to all out years covered by a TRUST FUND	a	Survey fences and condition
		b	Repair fences, gates and crossings.
		c	Construct up to 5 miles of new fencing and gates.
4	Manage and maintain access to the property. Common objective to all out years covered by a TRUST FUND	a	Maintain existing roads in good repair.
		b	Develop and maintain information signs.
		c	Coordinate, cooperate with neighbors, and volunteers who wish to work access projects using outside funding consistent with an approved access plan.
5	Maintain existing facilities on the property. Common objective to all out years covered by a TRUST FUND	a	Maintain existing facilities in support of field crews.
6	Protect property and facilities against uncontrolled, unmanaged wildfire, consistent with fire management plan. Common objective to all out years covered by a TRUST FUND	a	Contract for initial strike on uncontrolled fires which are inconsistent with fire management plan.
		b	Maintain fire equipment and fire cache in good condition.
		c	Provide training in fire fighting and safety.
7	Project Administration Common objective to all out years covered by a TRUST FUND	a	Staff training in operation, maintenance, and care of equipment and resources.
		b	Quarterly reports
		c	Coordination with agencies and neighbors.
8	Management Plan Implementation Common	a	Implement activities from an approved Management Plan

	objective to all out years covered by a TRUST FUND		consistant with the goals of wildlife mitigation.
		b	Coordination and cooperation with agencies and neighbors on the implementation of a approved Management Plan

### ***Objective schedules and costs***

<b>Obj #</b>	<b>Start date mm/yyyy</b>	<b>End date mm/yyyy</b>	<b>Measureable biological objective(s)</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>FY2000 Cost %</b>
1	10/2001	9/2061			3.00%
2	10/2001	9/2061			15.00%
3	10/2001	9/2061			29.00%
4	10/2001	9/2061			9.00%
5	10/2001	9/2061			10.00%
6	10/2001	9/2061			9.00%
7	10/2001	9/2061			7.00%
8	10/2001	9/2061		Approved Management Plan	18.00%
				<b>Total</b>	100.00%

### **Schedule constraints**

The NPT has acquired 10,458 acres todate, 6,002 acres to reach goal. Availability of willing sellers within the time frame to reach the acreage goals are subject to the market. Year to year budgets are dependent on returns from the Trust.

### **Completion date**

Land acquisition time frame, completed by Oct. 1999. O & M funding is provided for up through FY 2001 by BPA/NPT agreement, long term O & M funding (beyond FY2001) committed to under agreement by June, 2001, in perpatuiety.

## **Section 5. Budget**

### **FY99 project budget (BPA obligated):**

#### ***FY2000 budget by line item***

<b>Item</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>% of total</b>	<b>FY2000</b>
Personnel		%27	\$1,215,000
Fringe benefits		%7	\$315,000
Supplies, materials, non-		%8	\$350,000

expendable property			
Operations & maintenance		% 8	\$350,000
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)		% 2	\$90,000
NEPA costs		% 2	\$100,000
Construction-related support		% 2	\$100,000
PIT tags	# of tags:	% 0	0
Travel		% 11	\$505,000
Indirect costs		% 18	\$800,000
Subcontractor		% 13	575,000
Other		% 2	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL BPA FY2000 BUDGET REQUEST</b>			<b>\$4,500,000</b>

### ***Cost sharing***

Organization	Item or service provided	% total project cost (incl. BPA)	Amount (\$)
		% 0	
		% 0	
		% 0	
		% 0	
<b>Total project cost (including BPA portion)</b>			<b>\$4,500,000</b>

### ***Outyear costs***

	<b>FY2001</b>	<b>FY02</b>	<b>FY03</b>	<b>FY04</b>
<b>Total budget</b>				

## **Section 6. References**

Watershed?	Reference
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

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## **PART II - NARRATIVE**

### **Section 7. Abstract**

The NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Project is expected to mitigate for approximately half the outstanding wildlife losses amended into the PNPPC's Fish and Wildlife Program and attributed to the Lower Snake River Complex of Dams. The NPT entered in to a contract with BPA, #96BI97175, to provide funding to the NPT for acquisition and maintenance of approximately 16,500 acres in NE Oregon/SE Washington, of which 10,480 acres have been purchased to date. **The contract also stated a long term funding strategy using a Trust Fund should be negotiated by June 2001. The Trust Fund approach only works when the trust is set up in time to allow investments to generate funds needed in the future. If the Trust Fund is going to be built over time then initial investments into the Fund need to start as soon as possible.** This proposal is for O & M funding related to project lands. The goal of the project is to protect and preserve the property for the benefit of native species (elk, bighorn sheep, quail, etc.) while protecting native plant communities and watershed in **perpetuity**. Existing data and information gathered during the inventory of resources present on the property would be transferred to the NPTs' GIS system and used to develop a comprehensive Management Plan, following a public format, outlining future activities which will occur on the property. A long-term monitoring program will be developed, along with a baseline HEP evaluation to document habitat improvements. O & M funding will be used to maintain the integrity of the property and facilities found there while providing funds to implement an approved management plan. Initially the property will be managed for limited access, (by foot, horseback) until a management plan can be put into place. Management plans and their implementation should be fully underway in 2 to 4 years. Habitat, access, weed, and fire management will be the key to this project. The property will be managed for wildlife in perpetuity.

## **Section 8. Project description**

### **a. Technical and/or scientific background**

The construction of the Lower Snake River Complex of dams had an impact on wildlife along the full length of the Lower Snake River area. The ACOE and the State of Washington initially identified 3 categories of land types (upland, riparian, fishing access) to mitigate for the wildlife losses along the Lower Snake River. The ACOE, under the Lower Snake Comp Plan and working with the State of Washington, determined the losses using the HEP process (the method used by the NWPPC to measure habitat losses in its Fish and Wildlife Program). The Corps would then be consistent with the NWPPC Fish and Wildlife Program, the umbrella program for the Columbia River Basin wildlife mitigation program. While the ACOE met their obligations under the Plan, there were losses identified using HEP still remaining after all the land the ACOE was obligated to buy. The NWPPC amended the remaining losses into the program and recognized the NPT's priority to contract the mitigation of a portion of the identified habitat units.

### **b. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs**

The NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Project is designed to partially mitigate for losses of wildlife habitats in the Columbia Basin due to the construction of Federal Hydroelectric Dams. It is recognized in the NWPPC Fish and Wildlife Program that mitigating for habitat units lost was the key to wildlife mitigation. The project is located approximately 50 miles south of the Lower Snake River along the breaks of the Grande Ronde River, between Joseph Creek and Cottonwood Creek, similar in terrain as along the Lower Snake River but at a smaller scale. The NEOR project falls outside of the Snake River reservoir area, which is subject to changes in river management policies thus safeguarding the investments made in positive wildlife mitigation accomplishments.

**c. Relationships to other projects**

The location of the property provides the opportunity and necessity to work with the following groups and agencies:

**Wallow Whitman National Forest** – 4 miles of common boundary – the main access point to the property is through the forest.

**Hells Canyon National Recreation Area** – 3 miles of common boundary – access to the property is by trail through the NRA – grazing units on the NRA are accessed through the mitigation property by the existing permittee.

**The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation** – The project is an important winter range for elk in the region. Cooperative projects highly desired and probable.

**Blue Mountain Elk Initiative** – The NPT is a charter member, who now owns important elk habitat in the region – cost share projects are likely through the Initiative. Cooperative projects highly desired and probable.

**Hells Canyon BigHorn Sheep Recovery Project** – The Joseph Creek herd uses part of the project area at times. It could be an important recovery area in the future. It's a disease free area so far. It's a possible release site. Cooperative projects highly desired and probable.

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed** – Project lands fall within the GRMW. Cooperative projects highly desired and probable.

**BLM** – The project has numerous in-holdings within the boundary area. Cooperative projects highly desired and probable.

**State of Oregon** – State land in-holdings are found within the boundary area. Cooperative projects highly desired and probable.

**State of Oregon** – Fish & Game – Cooperative Game Management. Cooperative projects highly desired and probable.



**Wallowa County** – Cooperative Weed Management. Cooperative projects highly desired and probable.

**d. Project history** (for ongoing projects)

The NPT contracted with the BPA #96BI97175 who provided \$4,500,000.00 to acquire approximately 16,500 acres of wildlife habitat, of which 10,458 acres has been bought to date. The contract provides for O & M funding through FY2001. Negotiations for long term funding of O & M was also addressed in the agreement. The NPT would need \$4.5 million to establish a long term trust lasting a minimum of 60 years. The NPT working with the Trust for Public Land identified an opportunity to acquire its first property in NE Oregon. With the approval of local governments, agencies and conservation groups, the NPT made its' first purchase under the contract in 1996. The first property bought was 10,300 acres providing habitat diversity, native grasslands, and riparian habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. The property had limited access and the possibility of adjacent land acquisitions. Initial work on the project was to reestablish access to the property because of damaging floods during the winter of 96 and spring of 97. In fiscal year 97-98 the NPT received \$411,393.00 to initiate O & M on the project and cover startup capital costs. A site manager was hired along with seasonal help. Due to the remoteness of the area, roads, staff facilities, and fences were worked on first to provide a base for operations. Information on weed location, density, and distribution was noted by the first crews on the property. Coordination with neighbors and agencies was sought early in the year. An additional 158 acres was purchased in 1998, adjacent to the existing property. This piece provides for the only contact point by phone on project lands and provides a high elevation view of the property. It is also the largest area of relatively flat land on the project. Fiscal year 98-99 O & M has been funded at \$144,384.00. This funding level is proportional to the acres under management.

**e. Proposal objectives**

The objectives of this proposal is to provide funding to protect the integrity of the property and existing wildlife habitat units acquired for wildlife mitigation in NEOR against trespass grazing, noxious weeds, uncontrol wildfire, while maintaining existing facilities and quality habitat in **perpetuity**. The objective of this proposal are as follows:

1. Develop and maintain a resource data base for mitigation project lands
2. Monitor and control noxious weeds on project lands
3. Maintain the integrity of the property boundary against trespass grazing
4. Manage and maintain access to the property
5. Maintain existing facilities
6. Protect property and facilities against uncontrolled wildfire
7. Project Administration
8. Management Plan Implementation

**f. Methods**

Very little information was available on the resources found in the mitigation area. All federal and state agencies were requested for any data they had. All the existing mapping and resource data will be collected and maintained on file. All data will be transferred to the NPTs' GIS system in order to facilitate planning. New aerial photography was contracted to help verify vegetation cover and facilitate planning. The most current orthophotoquads will be digitized and a vegetation cover map developed using the current aerial photography. Ground truthing of vegetation cover map will occur after the cover map is completed. GIS data layers also missing at the 7.5 min. quad level are the public land survey, land ownership, streams and creeks, roads and trails, fence lines, soils, and cultural resources. All these layers will be digitized as the data becomes available.

Noxious weeds will be continuously monitored to determine distribution and rate of spread. Permanent plots will be set up and monitored. All weed data will be maintained on GIS. A weed management plan will be developed as a part of the management plan for the property. Weed management will be coordinated with local weed supervisors. Weed control efforts will be conducted on up to 500 acres using accepted methods of control.

Most of the neighbors around the mitigation property allow grazing by cattle or sheep. To control trespass grazing all the common fencelines with the neighbors will be surveyed and maintained in good repair. Five miles of new fenceline will also be constructed in those areas which will be the most effective at reducing trespass grazing.

There are two access roads on to the property, both are susceptible to acts of nature. All existing roads will be maintained in good repair. Gates and information signs will be provided at all entrance points to the mitigation property.

There are three cabins on the existing property. Due to the remoteness of the property the facilities will be maintained in good condition to facilitate their use by staff and volunteers. Much of the property can only be accessed by horseback so facilities will be maintained for such use. Historical buildings will be maintained in character.

Much of the Blue Mountain area falls within fire maintained habitats. Summer and fall fires are common. A fire management plan will be developed to integrate prescribed burning into the management of the property. However, uncontrolled wildfire can be dangerous to staff and facilities. A contract with the State of Oregon will be maintained to provide initial attack on wildfire when they fall outside of prescription. A fire cache will be maintained with water pumping equipment available. Training in fire management, fire behavior, and fire fighting will be provided to staff. Staff will be provided with property safety training to reduce injury in the field.

Once an approved management plan is developed staff will follow thru with the implementation of the plan. The plan will outline long term goals for the habitats found on the property and ways to maintain and enhance the habitat to the benefit of wildlife.

**g. Facilities and equipment**

The existing ownership has three cabins on the property which will be used by field personnel to increase the efficiency of field crews by having them stay out on the property while performing field work. All the facilities provide shelter, water, bathrooms, cooking areas and storage. Capital equipment bought to date is a portable computer, a 24ft flat bed trailer, two 4-wheelers and a three horse trailer. Two 4x4 trucks are leased by the project.

**h. Budget**

**Personnel** – The personnel line item supports one ¼ time project supervisor, one full time site manager, and two six-month seasonals.

**Fringe Benefits** – A 30% fringe benefit covers full time permanent staff and 15% for seasonal staff.

**Supplies and materials** – This line item covers the cost of field and office supplies, along with field materials such as fencing materials, herbicide spray, materials for facility maintenance, gates and signage. There is 45 miles of perimeter boundary which needs to be maintained, most of it by foot or horseback.

**Operation and Maintenance** – covers utilities, communications.

**Capital acquisitions** – This line item is for replacement of existing capital equipment, and new equipment not foreseen at this time.

**Travel** – This line item covers the lease of two trucks, field per diem, and travel for coordination and training.

**Indirect Costs** – This varies from year to year. At the present time it is 22.9%.

**Subcontracts** – The subcontract line items cover such things as new fence construction, aerial weed spraying, road maintenance, facility maintenance, cultural resource surveys, and the initial fire attack contract.

The final budget is proportional to the number of acres under management out of the mitigation goal. This proposal is for the establishment of a Trust Fund in order to provide O & M funding in perpetuity. Establishment of the initial investment is critical to the success of Trust Funds.

## **Section 9. Key personnel**

POSITION: Project Supervisor ¼ FTE

Loren A. Kronemann, Wildlife Mitigation Biologist

Duties: Supervise the management of all mitigation properties. Supervise management plan development and implementation. Participate in field work. Provide administrative support and coordination of wildlife research and inventories. Supervise agency coordination.

Education:

Experience:

Background:

POSITION: Site Manager 1FTE

Angela Sondenaa, Site Manager

Duties: Supervise the day to day management of the NEOR mitigation properties. Supervise staff in the fulfillment of the objectives as lists in the work plan. Head up field team management plan development and implementation. Participate in field work. Provide administrative support and coordination for the field staff. Fill in for Project Supervisor with needed. Participate in all the agency and neighbor coordination.

Education: BS – Wildlife Mgt.  
PhD. – Botony – dissertation to be completed.

Experience: Wildlife Biologist Slate Creek Ranger Station, Nez Perce Nat. Forest

Background:

## **Section 10. Information/technology transfer**

All data collected on the project will be maintained on the NPT's GIS system. All management documents will be made available to the public and agencies upon request. All information and data will be kept on computer for ease of distribution. If requested, personnel will be available for workshops, public and professional meetings.

**Congratulations!**